

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO SFRC TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE

1. PORTIONS OF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SFRC WERE WIDELY PLAYED IN THE GREEK MEDIA, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON HIS VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE RELATED U.S. DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (DCA'S). MR. VANCE'S REMARKS ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN POLICY ALSO RECEIVED ATTENTION. WHILE MOST REPORTING WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FACTUAL, SOME NEWSPAPERS TENDED TO INTERPRET THE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S COMMENTS THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW IDEAS ON CYPRUS TO MEAN U.S. MEDIATION WILL BE SOON FORTHCOMING.

2. FOR INSTANCE, INDEPENDENT PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI HEADLINED ITS OTHERWISE FACTUAL REPORT "VANCE: AID WILL BE INTERRUPTED TO COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS-- HE WILL TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS IMMEDIATELY". LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA ALSO REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT, ENTITLING ITS ARTICLE "VANCE SEEKS NEW ROADS
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REGARDING THE CYPRUS ISSUE". CONSERVATIVE VRADYNI CHARACTERIZED AS "UNJUSTIFIED FOR THE MOMENT" SENATOR PELL'S CONCERN OVER RATIFICATION OF THE DCA'S BECAUSE NEITHER VANCE NOR CARTER HAVE YET EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE PACTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ORGAN OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR, RIZOSPASTIS, WROTE THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO GRANT AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH

VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS. PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS
COMPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WAS RENEGING ON
TWO CAMPAIGN PROMISES; TO ELIMINATE CIA INTERVENTION
ABROAD AND TO CUT OFF AID TO COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN
RIGHTS. IT NOTED THAT TURKEY MAY WELL BECOME A U.S. AID
RECIPIENT IN SPITE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CYPRUS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. EDITORIALS TO DATE HAVE BEEN FEW. KATHIMERINI'S
EDITORIAL DWELT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND SAID THAT
WHILE THE U.S. WAS OFTEN QUICK TO LAMBAST OTHER NATIONS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE U.S. CRITERIA WERE NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT.
THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR NOT JOINING IN
PROTESTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY TURKEY IN CYPRUS.
IT ALSO OPPOSED CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF THE DCA'S
WITH TURKEY AND GREECE BECAUSE APPROVAL WOULD PROVE THAT
PRAGMATISM WAS STRONGER THAN MORALITY. ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE
ESTIA, IN ITS EDITORIAL CALLED "LAST PHASE", SAW
THIS AS PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL STEP TOWARDS REACHING A
RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION. MR. VANCE'S STATE-
MENTS, IT EMPHASIZED, COINCIDE WITH MOVEMENT BY THE
EC-9. HOWEVER, THE SOLUTION, IT PREDICTED, WILL BE BASED
ON VANCE'S "NEW IDEAS" WHICH IN ESSENCE WILL BE
KISSINGER'S "OLD ONES". RIZOSPASTIS CALLED VANCE AN
EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR, BUT AGREED THAT THE "NEW IDEAS"
WILL SIMPLY BE A NEW VERSION OF THE KISSINGER PLAN AND
A CONTINUATION OF THE PARTITION SCHEME OF ACHESON WHICH
VANCE TRIED TO GET ACCEPTED IN 1967.

MILLS
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